

often in religion—lived and worked harmoniously together, occupying strips of land running back from the Red or Assiniboine River—about two miles long. The junction of these two rivers, near which stood Fort Garry, was the centre of "Old Assiniboia." The groups of settlers usually of the same tongues were clustered into parishes. North from Fort Garry chiefly on both sides of the river were the English speaking parishes of St. Johns, Kildonan, St. Paul, St. Andrews and St. Clements. Southward from the centre of Assiniboia on Red River were the French parishes of St. Boniface, St. Vital, St. Norbert, Ste. Agathe and St. Jean Baptiste. On a small tributary of Red River was Pointe des Chênes. On the Assiniboine River were the English parishes of St. James, and Headingly, and further west the French parishes of St. Charles, St. Francois Xavier, Baie St. Paul, and still further west the English settlements of Poplar Point and Portage la Prairie, although the last two were not spoken of as being in Assiniboia. Near the junction of the two rivers stood Fort Garry, the nucleus of the city of Winnipeg. Fort Garry was the centre of life and business of the Colony. Here lived the Great Mogul of Assiniboia—The Resident Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company.

II.

THE BOIS-BRULÉS OR METIS.

The Traders of the Great Montreal Company, to obtain a continued service of voyageurs and trappers, encouraged their men to marry the Cree women and continue on in the fur trade. Their children became an active, impulsive and powerful clan. The daring native youths grew up to use firearms as well as the paddle and canoe in the lakes and rivers. Living as they did invariably in cabins on the banks of the streams they also became mighty trappers and hunters. From the southern American prairies they bought "bronchos"—horses. The young Metis became most skilful riders, and were remarkable for success in following the buffalo herds on the western prairies. They became ardent supporters of the Montreal traders as the Selkirk settlers were of the Hudson's Bay Company.

On the banks of the Swan River, a tributary of Lake Manitoba, and near by Qu'Appelle, was a paradise of the traders. Here young Cuthbert Grant, the son of a sturdy Highlander of the same name, and of a Metis woman—thus having Scottish, French and Cree blood,—became the beau-ideal of the Swan River Parthian band. Around the Nor'Wester council-fire it was planned to attack and sweep out of existence the newly come Selkirk settlers—whom they called "jardiniers" or clod-hoppers. To make the plot more easy to be carried